Statement

Name of Stations where BTs are planned for Installation in Assam Telecom Circle during 2003-04

Name of SSA	No. of BTS	BTS Site
Kamrup	4	Sonapur, Hajo, Rangia and Bijoynagar
Dibrugarti	7	Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Doomdooma, Moran Chapakhowa, Namrup and Margherita
Silchar	4	Hailakandi, Lalabazar, Dullaveherra and
Jorhat	6	Jorhat, Sibsagar, Mariani, Sonari, Bokakhat and Majuli
Bongaigaon	5	Tamulpur Barpeta Town, Abhayapuri, Pathsala and Lakhipur
Tezpur	7	Kharupetia, Bihupuria, Dhakuakhana, Jonai, Silapathar, Dhemaji and Tengla
Nagaon	2	Diphu & Hamren

Telephone facilities in the villages of Gujarat

423. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of villages in Gujarat are still without a telephone facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether Government have chalked out any plans to cover all the villages in the State with public telephones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vidya Vahini Project

424. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND,INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "Vidya Vahini" a project to connect 60,000 Government and Government aided Senior Secondary Schools all over the country through the Internet, has been launched recently;

(b) if so, the details of the project, including the financial allocations made for the purpose, State-wise;

(c) whether arrangements for providing the required number of suitably trained teachers and also for installation of the necessary hardware etc. in the large number of schools, have been made; and

(d) if not the details of State-wise phased programme drawn up for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Programme focuses on:—

- providing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure;
- training of the teachers to use ICT for imparting education;
- providing different learning resources which include related educational tools, course curriculum and other learning materials.

Every school covered under the programme will be provided one computer lab consisting of 10 Personal Computers, Server, Printer, Colour TV and Internet connectivity of 128 Kbps. The course curriculum content as per the CBSE standard in the digital form will also be loaded on the servers at the schools. The schools will be connected to the Central Portal hosted on ERNET server.

A pilot project of Vidya Vahini has been implemented in 140 schools at seven districts (20 schools in each district) in the following six States:

1.	Uttar Pradesh	-	Lucknow and Allahabad
2.	Jharkhand	-	Hazaribagh
3.	Gujarat	-	Gandhinagar
4.	Andhra Pradesh	-	Chittoor
5.	Maharashtra	-	Parli Vaijnath
6.	West Bengal	-	South 24-Parganas

The Pilot Project has been implemented at a total cost of Rs. 15.00 crores.

(c) and (d) Training of teachers is an integral part of Vidya Vahini Programme. Under the Pilot Project so far 820 teachers have been

trained. The district-wise teachers training break-up is as follows:—

Uttar Pradesh	286
Gujarat	81
West Bengal	151
Andhra Pradesh	77
Jharkhand	134
Maharashtra	91

Postal facilities in villages

425. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether every village in the country is provided with Post Office.

(b) if so, the details of the village Post Office ratio;

(c) if not, how many villages are deprived of Post Office facility;

(d) whether Government have set up target to expand the Post Office network; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir. However every village in the country is provided with basic postal facilities in terms of clearance and delivery of mail and sale of postal stamps and stationary through delivery agents. Post Offices are opened only subject to fulfilment of specified distance, population and income norms.

(b) For every 1000 villages there are 229 Extra Departmental Post Offices in the country.

(c) There are 4,56,836 villages without post offices in the country. However only approximately 4295 villages fulfil at least distance and population norms,

(d) and (e) Presently the focus of the Department is to provide post offices in Gram Panchayat villages which fulfil all the three specified norms, and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) where distance and population norms are being met but income norm is not fulfilled.The